DoD Deployment-related Health Assessments

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FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION AND READINESS

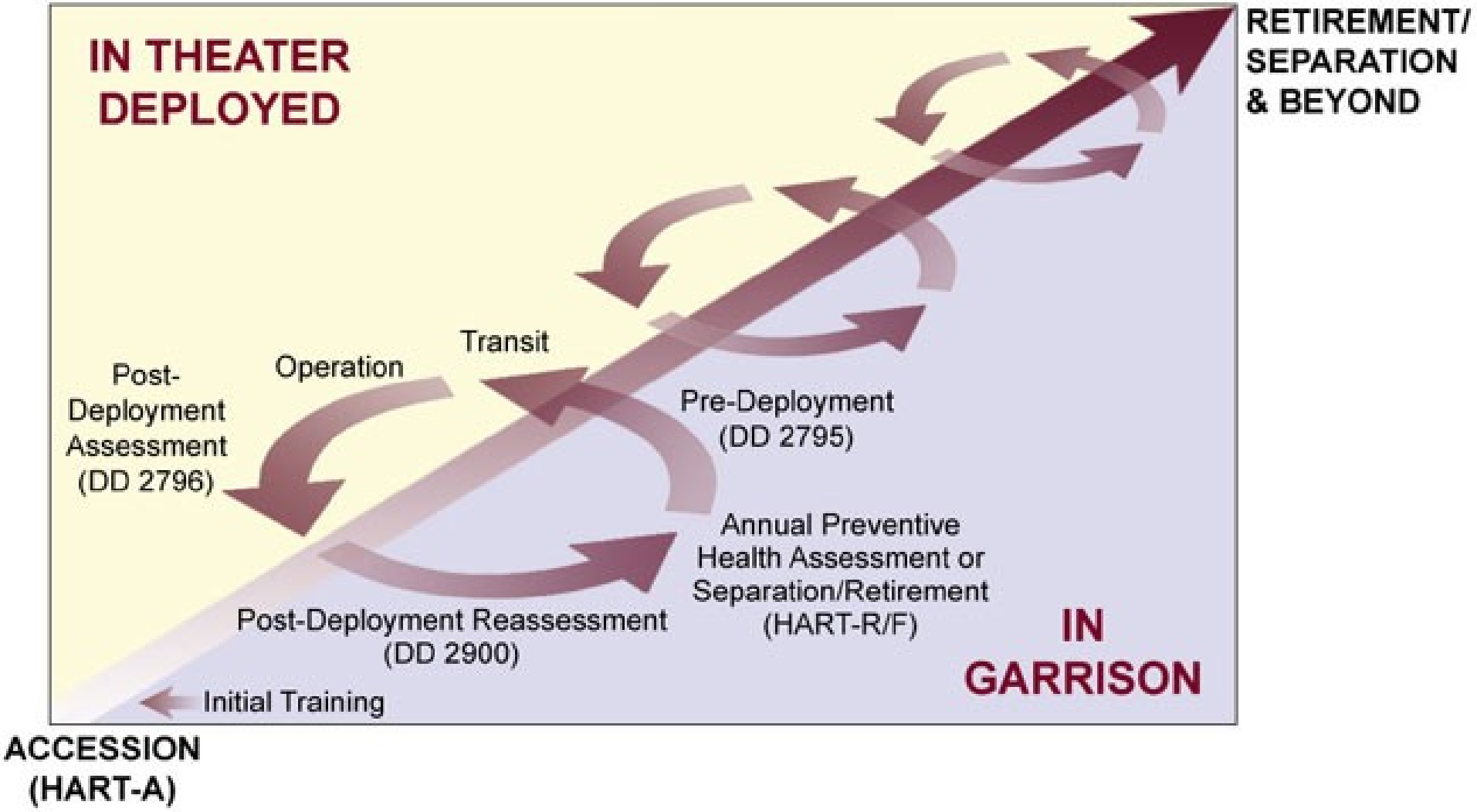
Outline

- Force Health Protection
- Continuous Assessment of Service Members' Health Status
- Deployment Health Assessments
  - Components
  - Processes
  - Reporting Tools

History/Background

- Various authoritative documents/laws helped codify what the DoD was already implementing based on lessons learned from the 1990-91 Gulf War and our experience in the Balkans
  - PRD-5, August 1998
  - P.L. 105-85 Section 765, November 1997
- Result: Force Health Protection Program
  - Predeployment Health Assessment Program
  - Postdeployment Health Assessment Program

Health Assessment Cycle



Pre-deployment Health Assessment (Pre-DHA) Process & Component

- Context: Service members will have received an annual preventive-focused Periodic Health Assessment (PHA)
- Assessment within the 60 days before deployment date to check for any recent change in health, since PHA
- Review of all individual medical readiness elements
- Referral for additional evaluation, medical equipment, immunizations, etc., as needed
- Serum specimen within 1 year of deployment start
- Accomplished at installation readiness processing units, e.g., Soldier Readiness Processing sites, or medical units, depending on size of deployment and availability

Pre-deployment Health Assessment (Pre-DHA) Reporting Tool

- DD Form 2795, September 1998
- A short series of general questions that allow service members to raise any health concerns and for medical staff to document any interval health changes since the most recent periodic health assessment that might impact the individual's ability to perform their assigned duties while deployed
- No specific psychological or TBI screening scales

Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) Process

- Purpose: a clinical process to screen, educate, and provide an overall health assessment
- Objectives:
  - Determine current health status
  - Identify potential health problems/risks posed by individual's deployment experience and unique exposures
  - Provide brief education/intervention/risk comm
  - Facilitate timely access to care
- Scope: deployment-related physical health, mental health, or exposure concerns

Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA)—Component Parts

- Completed within the 30 days before or after date of departure from theater
  - Most are completed in theater before departure
  - Remainder are accomplished during demobilization (e.g., Soldier Readiness Processing or Navy Mobilization Processing sites) or at home unit/base
- Face-to-face review and discussion of responses with a healthcare provider
- Provider documents discussion, issues identified, and whether any referrals are recommended
- Serum sample obtained $\leq$ 30 days of returning
- TB skin testing per Service policy, decision usually based on risk of exposure

Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) Reporting Tool

- DD Form 2796
  - Sep 1998 version similar to pre-deployment
  - Greatly expanded in Apr 2003 edition for OIF to address general symptoms, psychological health screening scales, and a variety of potential exposures
  - Further enhanced in late 2007
    - Expanded screening for possible TBI events/symptoms and alcohol misuse
    - Standardized questions between DD2796 and DD2900 (PDHRA) tools to better track response patterns over time
- New forms in use by since spring of 2008

Post-deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) P

- A Force Health Protection process designed to enhance the deployment-related continuum of care
- Targeted at 3 – 6 months after return from a contingency operation
- Provides:
  - Outreach, risk communication, education
  - Global health assessment (psychological health, physical health, occ/environmental exposure concerns)
  - Face-to-face review with provider
  - Referral for further evaluation and possible care
  - Enables detection of problems not apparent in the immediate post-deployment period
- Timing and need driven by research findings regarding psychological health following deployment
- Accomplished at installation/unit level with on-site teams (military or contractor) or via a contracted national call center

Post-deployment Health Reassessment

- DD Form 2900
  - Initial version published Jun 2005
  - Enhanced in late 2007
    - Added coverage for TBI, alcohol misuse, and impact of physical or emotional problems on work, relationships, etc.
    - Standardized (matched) questions in the PDHA (DD2796) wherever possible

Pre- and Post-Deployment Health Assessments and Post-Deployment Health Re-assessments (PDHRA)

	Pre-DHA (DD 2795)	Post-DHA (DD 2796)	Post-DHRA (DD 2900)
# Completed (# of Individuals)	354,739	339,170	326,057
Self-reported Health*			
Excellent, Very Good, Good	97%	91%	85%
Fair, Poor	3%	8%	13%
Physical Concerns	10%	22%	32%
Mental Health Concerns	n/a	20% ♦	41% ♦
Exposure Concerns	n/a	18%	25%
Referred for Further Evaluation	4%	26%	24%
When Assessment is Completed	Within 60 days of expected deployment	Within 30 days of return home	3 – 6 months after return

*some individuals do not respond to this question, so the total is less than 100%

♦ Any positive response to Questions 11-13 on the April 2003 version DD Form 2796, Questions 13-14 and provider question 2b on the January 2008 version DD Form 2796, Questions 8, 9, or 11 on June 2005 version DD Form 2900, or Questions 11-12

Backup Material

Deployment-associated Surveillance

Predeployment	Intradeployment	Postdeployment
• Self-assessment with DD Form 2795 • Archive pre-deploy serum sample • Individual medical readiness • Periodic Health Assessment (PHA)	• Monitor health events • Monitor exposures • Occupational • Environmental • Self-assessment with DD Form 2796 within 30 days of leaving operational area • Separation exam	• Archive post-deploy serum sample (<30d) • TB test (risk-based) • Postdeploy health reassessment (90-180d) with DD Form 2900 • Health care utilization • Periodic Health Assessment (PHA)

PDHA—In-Theater Processes, Usual Solutions

- Army
  - Web-based and standalone applications
  - Most done at unit forward location, sometimes in Kuwait during transit to home stations
- Navy/Marines
  - Web-based and standalone applications
  - Sailors afloat accomplish while sailing home; “boots on ground” Sailors process through a transit center in Kuwait
  - Marines accomplish at Battalion Aid Station level in theater, assessed by attached medics
- Air Force
  - Web-based application
  - At forward location, assessed by attached medics
- Coast Guard, all PDHAs are accomplished at a central ISC post-deployment processing site in Portsmouth, VA

DoD/VA TBI Screening Questions

- Prior to modifying forms, there were symptoms service members could endorse that might have indicated a TBI, but the new forms contain a series of TBI-oriented screening questions
- Positive assessment requires history of a reasonable inciting event and persistent symptoms consistent with a TBI
- Questions are asked sequentially with the screen stopping at the first negative response

DoD/VA TBI Screening Questions, cont'd

- During this deployment, did you experience any of the following events?
  - Blast or explosion (IED, RPG, land mine, grenated, etc.)
  - Vehicular accident/crash (any vehicle, including aircraft)
  - Fragment wound or bullet wound above your shoulders
  - Fall
  - Other event (for example, a sports injury to your head). Describe: _____

DoD/VA TBI Screening Questions, cont'd

- Did any of the following happen to you, or were you told happened to you, IMMEDIATELY after any of the event(s) you noted?
  - Lost consciousness or got "knocked out"
  - Felt dazed, confused, or "saw stars"
  - Didn't remember the event
  - Had a concussion
  - Had a head injury

DoD/VA TBI Screening Questions, cont'd

- Did any of the following problems begin or get worse after the event(s) you noted?
  - Memory problems or lapses
  - Balance problems or dizziness
  - Ringing in the ears
  - Sensitivity to bright light
  - Irritability
  - Headaches
  - Sleep problems

DoD/VA TBI Screening Questions, cont'd

- In the past week, have you had any of the symptoms you previously indicated?
  - Memory problems or lapses
  - Balance problems or dizziness
  - Ringing in the ears
  - Sensitivity to bright light
  - Irritability
  - Headaches
  - Sleep problems